

I find that the idea of a broadcast flag to be absolutely the worst idea. Passage of such a requirement immediately renders obsolete all existing TVs, VCRs, radios, PVRs, cable boxes, stereo systems, computers, satellite receivers/transceivers and a whole bunch of other electronic equipment. The industry has not needed any such protection before. The fact that this will also affect rights that the Supreme Court has stated exists for users of copyrighted material is also problematic, such as time shifting material. And as far as the DMCA or no DMCA concerning such activities, the broadcast flag will be gotten around, one way or another, rendering it a moot point. A good example of this is the SunnComm CD music protection that is gotten around by either pressing the shift key, or by turning off autorun on Windows. Or simply by running another operating system. Also, if a user is running a non-Windows or non-Apple operating system on their hardware, are they going to be able to watch this content on their hardware, just because the software isn't being supported?

I understand that CBS has chosen that if this broadcast flag is not to occur, that they will stop producing and publishing high definition content. I say, let the market make it's determination, and if CBS's content is such that people demand a broadcast flag to see their content, then so be it. But if the other available outlets choose to use HDTV and CBS loses marketshare (and stations) over it, so be it too.